

Docket No. IND-38DIV  
Express Mail ER 554 942 686 US

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**Applicants:** Benjamin F. James, IV      **Art Unit:**

**Serial No.:**      **Examiner**

**Filed** : December 3.2003

**For** : OPTICAL FIBER INCLUDING A DIFFUSER PORTION AND  
CONTINUOUS SLEEVE FOR THE TRANSMISSION OF  
LIGHT

**Customer No.** 000027777

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§1.97-1.98, information relating to the above-identified application is hereby disclosed. Inclusion of information in this statement is not to be construed as an admission that this information is material as that term is defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

Applicant(s) reserve(s) the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the information provided herewith, and/or to prove that this information may not be prior art, and/or to prove that this information may not be enabling for the teachings purportedly offered.

This statement should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made, or that information more material to the examination of the present patent application does not exist.

☒ In accordance with §1.97(b), since this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed either within three months of the filing date of the above-identified national application (other than a continued prosecution application under §1.53(d)), within three months of the date of entry into the national stage of the above identified application as set forth in §1.491, or before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits of the above-identified application, or before the mailing date of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under §1.114, no additional fee is required.

☐ In accordance with §1.129(a), this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed in connection with ☐ the first or ☐ second After Final Submission, therefore:

- ☐ Statement in Accordance with §1.97(e) (attached); or
- ☐ Please charge Deposit Account No. 10-0750/ / the fee of \$180.00 as set forth in §1.17(p).

☐ In accordance with §1.97(c), this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the period set forth in §1.97(b) above but before the mailing date of either a Final Action under §1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under §1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution and that it is accompanied by one of:

- ☐ Statement in Accordance with §1.97(e) (attached); or
- ☐ Please charge Deposit Account No. 10-0750/ / the fee of \$180.00 as set forth in §1.17(p).

☐ In accordance with §1.97(d), this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the mailing date of either a Final Action under §1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under §1.311 but before the payment of the Issue Fee. Applicant(s) hereby petition(s) for consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement. Included are: Statement in Accordance with §1.97(e) as set forth below and the fee of \$180.00 as set forth in §1.17(p).

☐ Copies of each of the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 are enclosed herewith.

☒ Copies of references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 are enclosed herewith EXCEPT THAT:

☒ Copies of the <sup>reference</sup>~~cases~~ cited in US Application No. 10/315,440 to which this application claims priority are not enclosed.

☐ If any of the foregoing publications are not available to the Examiner, Applicant will endeavor to supply copies at the Examiner's request.

☒ There are no listed references which are not in the English language.

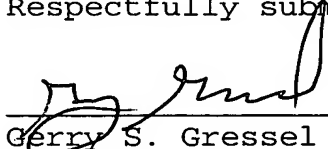
☐ The relevance of those listed references which are not in the English language is as follows:

☐ Attached are copies of search report(s) from corresponding patent application(s), which are listed on the attached Submission Under MPEP 609 D.

☐ Attached are the following non-published pending patent applications which may be deemed relevant, which are listed on the attached Submission Under MPEP 609 D.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 10-0750/IND 38DIV/GSG.

Respectfully submitted,



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DATED: December 3, 2003

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO  INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (use as many sheets as necessary)  Sheet 1 of 2	Application Number	0651-0031
	Filing Date	February 2001 12/9/01
	First Named Inventor	Benjamin F. James IV
	Group Art Unit (Parent)	2874
	Examiner Name (Parent)	Scott A. Knauss
	Attorney Docket Number	IND-38DIV

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document mm-dd-yyyy	Pages, Columns, Lines, where relevant passages or relevant figures appear
		Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
		4,660,925		McCaughan, Jr.	04/28/87	ALL
		4,693,556		McCaughan, Jr.	09/15/87	ALL
		5,074,632		Potter	12/24/91	ALL
		5,196,005		Doiron et al.	03/23/93	ALL
		5,269,777		Doiron et al.	12/14/93	ALL
		5,534,000		Bruce	07/09/96	ALL
		5,754,717		Esch	05/19/98	ALL
		5,802,229		Evans et al.	09/01/98	ALL
		5,814,041		Anderson et al.	09/29/98	ALL

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document mm-dd-yyyy	Pages, Columns, Lines, where relevant passages or relevant figures appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Office <sup>3</sup>	Number <sup>4</sup>	Kind Code <sup>5</sup>				
		EP	0673627A		Y. Hashimoto et al.	09/27/95	ALL	
							ALL	
							ALL	

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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**OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS**

Examiner's Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITOL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published	T <sup>2</sup>
		J. C. Mizeret et al. "Cylindrical Fiberoptic Light Diffuser in Medical Applications". Lasers in Surgery and Medicine, Wiley Liss, New York, Vol. 19, No. 2 pages 159-167, 1996	

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

1 Unique citation designation number. 2 See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. 3 Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). 4 For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. 5 Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. 6 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U. S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231.

DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE          STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b> (use as many sheets as necessary)  Sheet 2 of 2	<b>Application Number</b>	68463571
	<b>Filing Date</b>	February 16, 2001 12/8/02
	<b>First Named Inventor</b>	Benjamin F. James
	<b>Group Art Unit</b> <i>Parent</i>	2874
	<b>Examiner Name</b> <i>James</i>	Scott A. Knauss
	<b>Attorney Docket Number</b>	IND-38DIV

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Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document mm-dd-yyyy	Pages, Columns, Lines, where relevant passages or relevant figures appear
		Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
		6,315,775		Thielen et al.	11/2001	ALL
		5,534,000		Bruce	07/1996	ALL
		6,361,530		Mersch	03/2002	ALL
		5,401,270		Muller et al.	03/1995	ALL
		5,695,583		Van den Bergh et al.	12/1997	ALL
		5,188,632		Goldenberg	02/1993	ALL
		5,207,669		Baker	05/1993	ALL
		4,986,628		Lozhenko et al.	01/22/91	ALL
						ALL
						ALL
						ALL
						ALL
						ALL

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document mm-dd-yyyy	Pages, Columns, Lines, where relevant passages or relevant figures appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Office <sup>3</sup>	Number <sup>4</sup>	Kind Code <sup>5</sup>				
							ALL	
							ALL	

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

1 Unique citation designation number. 2 See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. 3 Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). 4 For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. 5 Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. 6 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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